

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 291838Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 8102

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 19651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: IEA: DATA AGGREGATION ISSUE

1. HAVING CONSULTED INTENSIVELY IN ADVANCE WITH KEY
DELEGATIONS, SOM CHAIRMAN HOPPER (CANADA) CONVENED A
SMALL GROUP ON JULY 25 TO SEEK A COMPROMISE ON THE
EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUAL OIL COMPANY DATA SHOULD BE
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SUBMITTED FOR THE GENERAL SECTION OF THE IEA INFORMATION

SYSTEM. HOPPER INDICATED TO REPS FROM THE U.S., UK, GERMANY, ITALY, DENMARK AND SWEDEN THAT IN HIS VIEW THERE WAS NO POINT IN SEEKING TO FORCE A VOTE IN FAVOR OF SUBMISSION OF DISAGGREGATED DATA ON A REGULAR OR EXTENSIVE BASIS - HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IN PRACTICAL TERMS NO MORE DATA WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE U.S. PURSUANT TO SUCH A VOTE THAN UNDER THE NON-BINDING CONSULTATION PROCEDURE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED TO THE GOVERNING BOARD. (A FEW DAYS EARLIER THE U.S. REP AT THE MEETING HAD TOLD HOPPER THAT, AT MOST, U.S. LAW WOULD PERMIT SUBMISSION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANY DATA REQUIRED BY THE IEP AGREEMENT; I.E. NON-PROPRIETARY DATA WHICH THE U.S. BELIEVED WOULD NOT PREJUDICE COMPETITION.)

2. HOPPER SAID THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GERMAN REP (SCHMITT) HAD SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE THAT WAS POLITICALLY FACE-SAVING WITHOUT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL DISAGGREGATED DATA, I.E. THAT MORE DETAIL SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON THE COST OF OIL WITHOUT REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANY DATA. WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE ITALIANS, WHO WERE NEGATIVE BUT VAGUE, THE INFORMAL GROUP AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HOPPER TO SEEK THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE OIL COMPANY WORKING PARTY ON HOW THE GERMAN IDEA MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED.

3. IN ADDITION, EACH MEMBER OF THE INFORMAL GROUP WAS ASKED TO REFLECT ON HOW DATA WHICH CANNOT BE PROTECTED ADEQUATELY BY AGGREGATION ON A NATIONAL BASIS CAN BE AGGREGATED ON A MULTI-COUNTRY BASIS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND SECURITY CONCERNS. HOPPER PLANS TO CONSULT WITH THE GROUP ON THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE AGGREGATION ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER.

4. FINALLY, AT THE REQUEST OF HOPPER, THE U.S. REP AGREED TO ATTEMPT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES, TO REDRAFT THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE JUNE 30-JULY 1 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING TO IMPROVE THE PRESENTATION WITHOUT CHANGING THE SUBSTANCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, DATA, POLICIES, AGREEMENT DRAFT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP19651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750262-0111
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750712/aaaaalbe.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by Izenbei0>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IEA: DATA AGGREGATION ISSUE
TAGS: ENRG, OECD, IEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006